

Board of Commissioners

May 20, 2008 – 2:30 pm

Meeting called to order by President Rininger. Commissioners Rininger, Logsdon, Gogel, and Board Attorney Lueken were present.

RQAW

Melvin L. Beeker, with RQAW Consulting, Engineers and Architects, addressed the commissioners and discussed the services which RQAW could provide for the county.

Spencer County Tourism Commission Appointment

Melissa Miller asked the commissioners to make an appointment to the Spencer County Tourism Commission to replace Chris Middleton. The commissioners also received a letter from David Lovell with the same request. They both recommended Gay Ann Harney. Logsdon made a motion to appoint Gay Ann Harney to replace Chris Middleton on the Spencer County Tourism Commission. Gogel seconded. All in favor.

Farm Rental

Eric Sermersheim asked to be allowed to continue to cash rent the tillable acreage of the south part of the former county home property which is south of the Huffman drain for the sum of \$100. Logsdon made a motion to award Sermersheim the cash rental. Gogel seconded. All in favor.

SIHO

Pete Franzman and Mary Beth Hurst addressed the board representing SIHO regarding the county health insurance. Franzman and Hurst presented suggestions for potential changes in the current plan with an increase in the wellness benefits. Franzman suggested that the county put together a committee of county employees to review the current plan and any possible changes. Rininger stated he likes the idea of increasing the wellness benefits and feels it has the potential for saving the county in the long run.

Rininger suggested the committee be made up of three department heads from the courthouse, one person from the highway, one from the Sheriff's department, two councilmen, and one commissioner. Logsdon offered to serve on the committee as the commissioner representative, and Shelton volunteered to be one of the courthouse

representatives. The renewal date for the insurance is August 1<sup>st</sup>. Rininger said the committee needs to meet as soon as possible and a decision needs to be made by the July meeting.

#### G.E.T.S.

Tammy Graham presented the commissioners with a program called Government Emergency Telecommunications Service or G.E.T.S. The program would allow the county to have certain emergency land and cell phone numbers prioritized during an emergency or disaster. Land lines can be added to the program for free. Cell phones can be added at a cost of \$4.50 per month. There would be a per minute fee only if or when the number is activated. Only the Sheriff, the EMA Director, and the Highway Superintendent would have the ability to activate the system.

The commissioners requested information and asked that the topic be tabled for further review.

#### Ford Explorer

EMA Director Perdue asked the commissioners for permission to transfer the Ford Explorer which is being replaced in the Sheriff's Department to the EMA Department. The Explorer was taken to a shop and it requires only \$800 for repairs. Gogel made a motion to transfer the Ford Explorer from the Sheriff's Department to the EMA Department. Logsdon seconded. All in favor.

#### Public Safety Building

Perdue read the following announcement regarding the FEMA Grant which Spencer County applied for to build a Public Safety Building:

Spencer County is in the final stages of qualifying for Indiana's first-ever Pre-Disaster Mitigation project grant.

The grant program is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and will provide the county with more than \$2.5 million for an emergency operations center (EOC) and shelter. If the FEMA grant is awarded and accepted, Spencer County's 25 percent local match would be \$839,330.00. County officials will be reviewing the cost of ineligible items, such as more office space, to determine the feasibility and savings by including them in a single construction project.

The facility will allow shelter during major disasters, will offer a centralized location for emergency response equipment, provide a protected location for the EOC and 911 dispatch center and provide a central location for meetings and trainings. It can also function as a district operations center in case of a major disaster.

Spencer County began this process in December of 2004 with the award of a planning grant. Pending further review by federal, state, and local officials, construction could begin in 2009.

This program provides funds to states, territories, Indian tribal governments, communities, and universities for hazard mitigation planning and the implementation of mitigation projects prior to a disaster event.

Funding these plans and projects reduces overall risks to the population and structures, while also reducing reliance on funding from actual disaster declarations. PDM grants are to be awarded on a competitive basis and without reference to state allocations, quotas, or other formula-based allocation of funds.

Lisa Gehlhausen, of Indiana 15, explained that if the county is awarded the grant and the county decides to build the Public Safety Building, it will be the major project for the State of Indiana this year. Gehlhausen gave the commissioners a list of the cost estimates with each item labeled as "Eligible" or "Ineligible". The eligible costs are ones which can be paid for with the grant money and the ineligible costs would be an expense to the county. The county will need to decide which of the ineligible costs will be included in the final design. Gehlhausen further stated that Jan Crider with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security would like to come down and meet with commissioners and councilmen in June to discuss the grant.

#### Highway Report

Fuel Usage – Painter presented the commissioners with a comparison of fuel usage prior to and during the 4 day work week. Painter also stated that equipment that does not need to run has been shut down. Discussion was had on the mowing plans. Logsdon complimented Painter and the supervisors on their work to cut fuel costs.

High Water Signs – Painter obtained pricing on signs saying "Traffic Prohibited" to be used when high water makes travel on a road dangerous. Logsdon suggested the action be tabled and the cost of the signs be

added to the budget for next year. Logsdon also asked Painter to develop a plan for roads which are prone to flooding for an extended time to possibly be cabled or blocked off during a flood.

St. Meinrad Sink Holes – Painter stated that he cannot find anyone in St. Meinrad who remembers when the culvert was put in which was discussed at the prior meeting. Lueken stated that there is not a county easement for the culvert so it is on private property. Painter stated that the county would only be responsible for that part of the culvert which passes under the alley. Painter and Gogel will check on that portion of the pipe.

DNR / CR 225 W – Painter discussed with Lueken CR 225 W which is no longer maintained. A land owner asked if the property owners along the road can shut him off from his property.

Engineer Report

Speed Limit Ordinance – Lloyd presented the commissioners with the ordinance lowering the speed limit on CR 500 N from Orchard Road to CR 450 W to 35 miles per hour, as discussed at the prior meeting. Logsdon made a motion to pass Ordinance 2008-04. Gogel seconded. All in favor.

Chrisney Library – Lloyd stated that she has been contacted by the Town of Chrisney and it may be necessary to open cut the road to extend the water pipe to where the new library is being built. The road is chip and seal. Logsdon said the road can be open cut if it will save them money over boring under the road.

EMA Grant

Perdue requested the commissioners sign a grant which the county received for a new generator in the amount of \$4,065.89. The commissioners signed the grant.

Legal Report

SRI – Lueken stated that he reviewed the agreement with SRI to administer the Commissioners’ sale on the internet. He recommended the commissioners sign the agreement. Logsdon made a motion to sign the agreement. Gogel seconded. All in favor.

WTH – Lueken explained that WTH has forwarded a request for information from First American Spatial Solutions. The Data Sharing Application has been completed and signed. Lueken recommended approving the application. Logsdon made a motion to approve the application. Gogel seconded. All in favor.

WTH – Lueken stated that the Patoka Lake Regional Water System has requested a data sharing agreement with all of the surrounding counties who use Patoka Water. The agreement would allow the county to have the water lines put on the local GIS system. Lueken recommended the commissioners sign the agreement. Logsdon made a motion to sign the agreement. Gogel seconded. All in favor.

Richland Incorporation – Lueken stated that he will have more information at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting regarding the incorporation of Richland. Logsdon asked what role the commissioners have in the incorporation process. Lueken discussed the Indiana Code and the requirements which have to be met. The commissioners have the responsibility of making sure the town meets the criteria set out and that the incorporation is in the best interest of the area being incorporated and the county.

Logsdon made a motion to adjourn. Gogel seconded. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Board of Commissioners,

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President  
Attest:

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Cindy Shelton, Auditor

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